

Date Mailed  
December 5, 2000

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of St. Croix Valley Natural Gas Co. Inc., as  
a Gas Public Utility, to Install a Radio-Based Automated  
Meter Reading (AMR) System in its Service Territory

5230-CG-103

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING  
AND  
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

**THIS IS A PROCEEDING** to consider the November 7, 2000, application of St. Croix Valley Natural Gas Co. (SCV), as a gas public utility, for approval under Wis. Stat. § 196.49 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 133, to install a radio-based automatic meter (AMR) system in its service territory.

SCV is a public utility as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.01(5)(a) and is engaged in the distribution and sale of natural gas to approximately 5,300 customers in portions of Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin.

SCV proposes to install an AMR system with a seven-year operating lease and a 10 percent buyout option at the end of the lease term. The estimated cost to be financed through the lease is \$363,000. The AMR system would replace manual meter reading and eliminate the need to hire meter readers. SCV states that with the AMR system, manual entry of meter readings into their billing system would be eliminated, increasing worker productivity and eliminating human error. Also, SCV states that the mobile AMR will enable SCV to read all of their meters in a one to two day period instead of the current twenty work days each month and to have a single billing cycle each month instead of their current five cycles.

Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 133.03(1)(i), requires that a gas public utility obtain Commission authorization under Wis. Stat. § 196.49(2) for the installation of any equipment, property, apparatus, building, facility, or addition thereto, the cost of which exceeds four percent of the utility's gross gas operating revenue received during the previous calendar year.

Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 133.05(2), the Commission intends to consider the application without a hearing.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses

incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

This is a Type III action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). No unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which indicate that significant environmental consequences are likely. Neither an environmental impact statement under Wis. Stat. § 1.11 nor an environmental assessment is required.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to case coordinator John R. Vogt at (608) 267-3374.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

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